

rights must have had a tremendous social and psychological impact on the mental health of the Pilipinos.

Although prejudice and discrimination are important themes throughout the entire book, it may have been unnecessary to title one part "prejudice" and devote only two pages to it. The author does, however, present a clear explanation of how Pilipinos protect themselves from the dangerous elements in the American society. American society charges that Pilipinos run around in "gangs" and are dangerous to American society. On the contrary, Pilipinos travel together for self-protection and to provide help for one another in time of trouble.

The Pinoy's talk is very sensitive. It reveals how different some Pilipinos are and yet how many share commonalities with each other, as well as with other Pacific Asian American groups. Hawaii, rich in its Pacific Asian heritage, continues to lead the way to the "roots of our past" and to learning to be proud.

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PATRICIA A. VARDIN and ILENE N. BRODY (Editors).
CHILDREN'S RIGHTS: CONTEMPORARY PERSPECTIVES. New
York: Teachers College Press, 1979, 182 pp., \$6.95.

In 1979, the International Year of the Child, this volume presents a telling indictment of our record in the area of children's rights. Authors from international and interdisciplinary perspectives indicate the tremendous gulf between the ideal and the real.

As a society, we have yet to guarantee even the most basic rights to our children. Confusion reigns as to when children need advocates and who those advocates are to be. Subissues deal with the rights of children within the family unit, the needs and rights of children without families, the rights of minors in institutions, and the general level of commitment to basic rights of children within society as a whole.

The authors challenge, with startling statistics, our common societal assumption that the state can and should intervene to remove children from the family unit under a variety of conditions. This is routinely done in spite of developmental evidence supporting children's need to have a stable, continuing relationship with at least one caring adult. Massive documentation is presented concerning the failure of our foster care system to meet that fundamental need. Alternative proposals present possible support systems that could assist families, rather than contribute to their breakdown.

On a more fundamental level, the assumptions underlying the socialization process are questioned. Does society have a right and an obligation to force children into a mold? Or are children, rather, free agents with inherent potentialities and rights to be nurtured? The latter perspective is supported with both literary and psychological contributions.

A book so universal in its condemnation would indeed be depressing without some suggestions for reform. Fortunately, several contributors address this question with goal statements and concrete proposals for attaining these goals. One suggestion details characteristics of several successful Youth Participation programs, which stimulate self-confidence and build habits of humane and helpful interaction with others. The qualities engendered by this sort of experience are essential to children and youth in a society so ignorant of their rights and so clumsy in its attempts to nurture them.

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LEO HAMALIAN and JOHN D. YOHANNAN (Editors). *NEW WRITING FROM THE MIDDLE EAST*. New York: Mentor Book, New American Library, 1978, 506 pp., \$2.95 paper.

In this rich collection of poetry, stories, and dramas, the editors attempt to illuminate the literary tradition of five Middle Eastern cultural groups. This anthology includes Arab, Armenian, Israeli, Persian, and Turkish literature, created primarily after the second world war. The authors of writings contained in the anthology range from Nobel Prize candidates to emerging talents whose works have been translated into English for the first time.

The primary striving of this work appears to be manifest in the greater understanding of a contemporary Middle East--the interpersonal forces between individuals as well as the impact of environment on human choice and life-style. As many of us today have only a passing familiarity with Middle Eastern ideology, life-style, or tradition, here is an excellent opportunity to achieve a depth of understanding regarding the Middle East of today. The reader is provided with numerous opportunities to compare the five cultural traditions presented and to flow with and enjoy the changes of mood from one of tenderness and compassion to intense sadness or melancholy to happiness and joy.

Hamalian and Yohannan have attempted to compile a series of writings by authors who made a contribution during the period when the "contemporary" phase of modern Middle Eastern literature began